DOCKET NO.: TIBO-0032/TIP0001USA

Application No.: 10/025,391

Office Action Dated: March 21, 2006

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

PATENT

Listing of Claims:

1-44. (Cancelled)

45. (**Original**) An apparatus for the simultaneous transfer of liquid analytes,

comprising:

a plurality of capillary tubes arranged in a holder device, wherein the liquid

analytes are taken up by the plurality of capillary tubes by capillary action; a housing adapted to

receive said plurality of capillary tubes; and means to apply a stimulus to effect transfer of

liquid analytes from the capillary tubes to at least one solid support.

46. (**Original**) The apparatus according to claim 45, wherein the capillary

tubes are arranged in the holder device in an array.

47. (**Original**) The apparatus according to claim 46, wherein said array is a

rectangular array.

48-49. (Canceled)

50. (**Original**) The apparatus according to claim 46, whereby the capillary

tubes are parallel aligned with respect to each other.

51. (**Original**) The apparatus according to claim 45, whereby the ends of the

capillary tubes define a flat surface.

52. (**Original**) The apparatus according to claim 45, wherein the number of the

capillary tubes is 96.

Page 2 of 7

DOCKET NO.: TIBO-0032/TIP0001USA

Application No.: 10/025,391

Office Action Dated: March 21, 2006

53. (**Original**) The apparatus according to claim 45, wherein the means to apply

PATENT

a stimulus comprises a pressure change using a piezo-electric element.

54. (**Original**) The apparatus according to claim 45, wherein the housing is

connected to an air pump, which is adapted to create a pressure difference relative to the

exterior of the housing to force the liquid analytes out of the capillary tubes.

55. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 45, wherein the means to

apply a stimulus provokes high frequency conditions to break a liquid column into droplets.

56. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 55, wherein the droplets

of each transferred liquid analyte onto the support have a size of nanolitre or picolitre.

57. (**Original**) The apparatus according to claim 45, wherein the open ends

of the capillary tubes are able to dispense the liquid analytes to the solid support with or

without direct contact between the capillary tube and the solid support.

58. (**Original**) The apparatus according to claim 45, further comprising at

least one solid support for the acceptance of liquid analytes.

59. (Original) A holder device suitable for use in the apparatus according

to claim 45, comprising a plurality of capillary tubes mounted in a mounting element,

said mounting element maintaining the capillary tubes in a desired relationship relative to

each other.

60. (**Original**) The holder device according to claim 59, wherein the

capillary tubes are arranged in an array.

DOCKET NO.: TIBO-0032/TIP0001USA

Application No.: 10/025,391

Office Action Dated: March 21, 2006

61. (**Original**) The holder device according to claim 59, whereby the capillary

PATENT

tubes are parallel aligned with respect to each other.

62. (**Original**) The holder device according to claim 59, whereby the ends of

the capillary tubes define a flat surface.

63. (**Original**) The holder device according to claim 59, wherein the number

of the capillary tubes is 96.

64. (**Original**) The holder device according to claim 59, wherein the mounting

element comprises one or two plates.

65. (**Original**) The holder device according to claim 59, whereby the distance

of the capillary tubes in an array is variable.

66-68. (Canceled)

69. (**Original**) An apparatus comprising: a) an array of capillary tubes from

which analytes are simultaneously released to a surface of a support, said support being

movable relative to the array and b) a housing adapted to receive the array, said housing

connected to an air pump capable of expelling analytes from their respective capillary tubes

onto the support by means of a pressure change.

70. (**Original**) An apparatus according to claim 69, wherein the analytes are in

liquid form.

Page 4 of 7